



MARYLAND FEDERATION OF ART

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 135
Admissions and Amusement Tax – Distribution to Maryland State Arts Council**

Thank you for your consideration of HB135. Originally signed into law as Chapter 145 (April 2016), this legislation removes the sunset provision from the 2016 bill and continues the \$1 million allocation for the Maryland State Arts Council from the Preservation Of Cultural Arts (POCA) monies.

This \$1 million distribution has helped to bring continued investment towards MSAC over the past 5 years and through MSAC helps fund the 24 arts councils representing each county and the city of Baltimore.

This funding is crucial to Maryland arts organizations. Over the past 57 years Maryland Federation of Art has worked with more than 2500 artists from all parts of the state to bring their work to the public.

Based in Annapolis, we are a small nonprofit that relies on funding from the Maryland State Arts Council and the Anne Arundel County Arts Council. These organizations have not only funded our ongoing operations - including the 42 exhibits we hosted across the state last year in Annapolis, Bethesda, Ocean City and Severna Park - but have also funded new initiatives we have made such as launching a studio tour for artists in Anne Arundel County and funding Paint Annapolis, a very successful plein air competition and exhibit that brings art lovers from across the mid Atlantic region to Annapolis., bringing economic development to our area.

For these reasons, I ask for a FAVORABLE REPORT on HB 135.

Joann Vaughan
Executive Director
Maryland Federation of Art